



# Scéala

Newsletter for the Gaelic-American Club  
74 Beach Road, Fairfield CT 06824  
[www.gaconline.org](http://www.gaconline.org)



Céad Mile Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



December 2025 | Dóilain

Dear Members of the Gaelic American Club,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2026, I want to thank you for placing your trust in me once again. It is an honor to continue serving as President and I remain committed to supporting the traditions, culture, and community spirit that make our Club so special.

I also want to acknowledge an important opportunity ahead. Only about 6% of our membership participated in this year's election. One of my goals for 2026 is to increase member engagement—not just at election time, but throughout the year. Your voice and involvement matter for the future of our club.

Looking back on 2025, I can proudly say it was the best Executive Committee I've been part of. I'm very happy that the entire team will be returning for 2026, bringing continuity, enthusiasm and experience to the year ahead.

As winter settles in, I encourage you to continue enjoying everything our Club has to offer.

Come in out of the cold, gather with friends, enjoy the music, food, and warmth of our community. Here's to another wonderful year!

Slainté!

Tom Harding  
President, Gaelic American Club



## TRIVIA NIGHT JANUARY 2ND @ 8PM

Be there at 8pm and be ready to unleash that random knowledge and join us for another fun filled night - and remember to wear white.

## MUSIC IN THE PUB

Friday Jan. 2 ~ Herman & Co.  
Saturday Jan. 3 ~ Once Removed  
Friday Jan. 9 ~ No Strings Attached  
Saturday Jan. 10 ~ Keltic Kick  
Friday Jan. 16 ~ Night Visitors  
Saturday Jan. 17 ~ Mostly Green  
Friday Jan. 23 ~ Sharon and Her Band  
Saturday Jan. 24 ~ Juliet's Run  
Friday Jan. 30 ~ Fake ID  
Saturday Jan. 31 ~ Mike McGovern



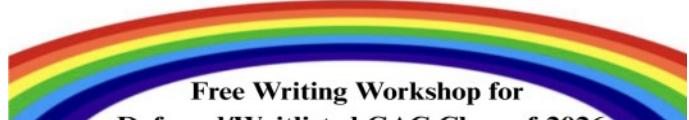
## 2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL BEGINS ON JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDS ON FEBRUARY 28, 2026.

2026 Membership Renewal begins on January 1, 2026 and ends on February 28, 2026.

Current members in good standing will receive an email on January 2, with details and instructions on how to renew online. Anyone who does not have an email on file, and those who requested it, will receive a paper copy of the renewal form in the mail.

Scrip expires on 2/28/26. Please do not wait until the last minute to discover your card is not working. After February 15th, we cannot guarantee card replacement in time to use Scrip before the deadline.

Email us at [membership@gacemail.org](mailto:membership@gacemail.org) anytime.



## Free Writing Workshop for Deferred/Waitlisted GAC Class of 2026

Elaine Halliday's Free writing workshop where students learn how to write targeted, successful letters of continued interest (LOCIs). Elaine will share previous students' successful LOCIs, help them brainstorm and list updates that reveal their academic and extracurricular achievements since their October & November early applications.

Date to be Announced.

## FIRST FRIDAY TRAD MUSIC SESSION WITH JAMES MCINERNEY JANUARY 2ND 6-8PM



James has been playing button accordion since childhood and is a first generation Irish-American born and raised in Fairfield. His Father Jim hailed from County Galway and his mother Joan hails from County Kerry. A lifelong member of the Gaelic American Club, he has played throughout the tri-state area for step dancers, ceilis and other events for decades. James is currently a member of the traditional Irish music band Ceol Agus Craic (Gaelic for Music and Fun) who is proud to call the GAC home. James is also a founding member of the Shamrock Traditional Music Society.



## 25 CARD GAME

Sunday Jan 18th @ noon. New players are welcome and we'll teach you to play this traditional Irish game.

## BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in working on the By-Laws Committee please contact Cathy Austin at caustin@cox.net

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Executive Committee can be reached at executive@gacemail.org. They meet the Tuesday prior to the Monthly Membership meetings.

**The next Monthly Membership meeting is January 9th @8pm.**

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

The white membership card with your name and 5 digit number is used for both entering the club and scrip. DO NOT DISCARD AFTER USING UP YOUR SCRIP. \$10 replacement fee for lost cards. Mail or drop off payment with your info to the Attn: Membership.

## MEMBER TO MEMBER MARKETPLACE

Place your professional listing in the Member to Member Marketplace on [www.gaconline.org](http://www.gaconline.org) by contacting [communications@gacemail.org](mailto:communications@gacemail.org). And when you need a business or trade service, check the list and support your fellow members.

## DART NIGHT

The Group meets Wednesday's at 7pm.

## FÁILTE COMMITTEE

FÁILTE needs more volunteers to ensure the Front Door has coverage. We have a large membership - surely we can get some more volunteers! Please sign up for the best seat in the house! [betteleary@gmail.com](mailto:betteleary@gmail.com).

## FAIRFIELD GAELIC PIPE BAND

The group practices Mondays at 6:30pm in the Carolan Room of the GAC. For more info visit [fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org](http://fairfieldgaelicpipeband.org) or call 475-329-0202.

## IRISH LITERATURE GROUP

The Irish Literature Group will meet on January 15th and to discuss *Belonging* by Catherine Corliss. The book is part memoir and part the story of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home. All are welcome! [maryellenkeresey@gmail.com](mailto:maryellenkeresey@gmail.com).

## GENEALOGY GROUP Fréamh Éireann

The group will meet January 10th @ 10:30am in the O'Keefe Room. For info [FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com](mailto:FESecretaryGAC@gmail.com).

# club ACTIVITIES

## GOOD AND WELFARE

Mass Cards were sent to:

**Terry Buckingham** and family on the passing of her husband, **Franklin**  
The family of **Patrick O'Connell**

Deceased member plaques  
were engraved for:  
**Patrick O'Connell**

**Mary Henwood, Franklin Buckingham.**

## GOOD NEWS:

**Chris and Carol Collins** are first time grandparents to **Cameron Vinci Collins** who arrived on October 19th. He is the great grandson of the late **Tom Murray** and **Tim and Mary Murray O'Shea**, long time club members.

**Molly Kallaway** and husband **Griff Alfaro** welcomed a son;

**Rory Bergin Alfaro** on December 16th.

Notify **Mary Alvarez** of all member news at [alvarezmp@icloud.com](mailto:alvarezmp@icloud.com).

## ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Meets at the GAC every 3rd Thursday of the month. The AOH is a fraternal group that mixes social functions and Christian charity. To join contact Tom Donohue at [tdonohue@slwmco.com](mailto:tdonohue@slwmco.com) or visit the website [www.aohjfk.com](http://www.aohjfk.com).

## TRAD MUSIC SESSION

The Shamroges host an Irish Trad Music Night on Wednesdays (7-9pm). All are welcome, to play or just listen.



## IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM ANNOUNCES 2ND ANNUAL FOUNDERS' GALA

The Gala is planned for May 2nd at the Galic American Club  
For more info visit [www.IGHMF.org](http://www.IGHMF.org)

## STAIR NA HÉIREANN | IRISH HISTORY LECTURE FEBRUARY 1ST 2026 @ 2PM WITH ELIZABETH STACK, PHD, CONTESTED CITIZENS: IRISH AND GERMAN IMMIGRANTS



Elizabeth Stack, PhD, Director of Education at Celtic Junction Arts Center in St. Paul, MN. Dr. Stack is the recent recipient of the 2025 Heroes of Irish America Award. She was the Executive Director of the American Irish Historical Society in New York City and prior to that was executive director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, NY.

Elizabeth Stack will explore the subject of how the two largest immigrant groups chose to define their ethnic identity amidst myriad Americanization policies, making it possible for other groups to be ethnic Americans.

(Read more: <https://gaconline.org/stair-na-heireann/>)

Tickets - \$5.00 (Students with ID \$2 | Sorry no GAC script or credit cards

## HOUSE COMMITTEE

Contact [manager@gacemail.org](mailto:manager@gacemail.org)

## IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES

### •Intermediate Class -

Thursdays at 6:45 pm via Zoom.

### •Beginners II Class - Tuesdays at 6 pm.

•Beginners I Class - Sundays from 5-6 pm. For more info contact Robin Griskus - 203 233 4979

## CELTIC ART INSTRUCTIONAL CLASS

In January the class will cover Celtic Design Pattern called "Spirals", it's another opportunity for first timers to join in, Contact [DesNolan@Optimum.net](mailto:DesNolan@Optimum.net). to get pre-class handouts by email.

## SENIOR LUNCH

Join us for Senior Lunch on Thursday, Jan 29th at 12PM. Reservations are required by Sunday, 01/25. Please call: Sally Savage: 203-366-4826 or Lisa Winkel: 203-259-0766

\$9 for members | non-members \$11.

## SET DANCING

We're back on the dance floor every Thursday's at 7pm . For more info: Brian Reynolds 203-214-2921.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Library Work Day is Jan 15th from 11 to 1pm contact Maryellen Lyons [maryellen.lyons@outlook.com](mailto:maryellen.lyons@outlook.com)

## BLOOD DRIVE JAN 2ND 9 TO 2PM

contact Red Cross first at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)





## 2026 GRAND MARSHAL'S GALA HONORING

THOMAS KEANE

Saturday January 24th  
from 6-11pm

Vazzano's Four Seasons  
Stratford CT  
Dinner, Open Bar & Dancing  
Music by the Night Visitors

\$150 per person

Tables of 10 - \$1,500

For more information visit:  
[stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com](http://stpatricksdaysbridgeport.com)

Support Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade

## ST. PATRICK'S FOOTBALL & HURLING CLUB NEWS

The club will again host it's annual  
**Introduction to Gaelic Sports**

An energetic introduction to Gaelic sports, including  
Football and Hurling for kids of all ages

The 90 minute session (4-5:30P) is geared towards  
kids ages 5-8 to learn the basics and burn some energy. The session also serves as training for the  
upcoming season. For more information

Visit [stpatricksgfc.org](http://stpatricksgfc.org)

## SHAMROCK TRADITIONNAL IRISH MUSIC SOCIETY'S

SPRING CONCERT SERIES STARTS

Saturday, March 7, 7:30 pm with  
Mary Courtney, Patrick Madden, Jack Ryan  
(\$22 online | \$25 at the door)

Mary Courtney (guitar, vocals) grew up in a musical family in the parish of Castlegregory, near the sea in County Kerry, a likely beginning for this remarkable singer and guitarist. Whether accompanying herself, or holding the rhythm line with her trad band, Morning Star, she is a consummate musician.

Patrick Madden (fiddle) is a first-generation Irish-American, born and raised in Queens, New York. As a dancer, he was introduced to traditional Irish music and went on to learn the fiddle under the tutelage of the great Maureen Glynn. He has been playing with Mary Courtney and Morningstar for over a decade.

Jack Ryan (whistle) was born in the Bronx and began playing the whistle at age eight. He initially learned from his father, who taught himself the instrument to pass it along to his children. Jack went on to study Irish music under Dawn Doherty, who was born in Co. Mayo and runs the Dawn Doherty Academy of Irish Music, based in Yonkers. Jack has competed multiple times at the Fleadh Cheoil in Ireland.

For more information to [www.shamrockirishmusic.org](http://www.shamrockirishmusic.org)

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Gaelic American Club  
74 Beach Road  
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[www.gaconline.org](http://www.gaconline.org)  
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